

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 HA-05 JUSE-00 /070 W  
-----081782 031946Z /21

O R 031831Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 065  
INFO USCINCSO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 5827

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI  
SUBJ: PINOCHET TALKS TO NEWSMEN: LETELER AND RELATED MATTERS

REF: SANTIAGO 5798

PRESIDENT PINOCHET BREAKFASTED WITH NEWSMEN AUGUST 2. SOME  
OF HIS COMMENTS HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY REPORTED BY THE LOCAL  
MEDIA. HW HAVE OBTAINED A TRANSCRIPT OF A PORTION OF THE  
DISCUSSIONS. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE OF  
PARTICULAR INTEREST.

BEGIN QUOTE (EMBASSY TRANSLATION);

QUESTION: THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ALLEGATIONS (ABOUT YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH CONTRERAS) IN THIS CASE.

PINOCHET: YES, THEY SAY THAT I HAD BREAKFAST EVERY DAY  
WITH GENERAL CONTRERAS ... THEY ALSO SAY THAT  
WE ARE RELATIVES. I HAVE NO FAMILY TIE TO HIM.  
HE WAS A STUDENT OF MINE IN THE WAR ACADEMY,  
LATER A PROFESSOR AND ASSISTANT WHEN I WAS  
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SUB-DIRECTOR; AFTERWARDS HE HAD CONTACT WITH  
ME ON THE GENERAL STAFF. NOBODY CAN CLAIM HE  
WAS MY ADVISOR. I HAVE BEEN A SOLDIER FOR 42  
YEARS. I HAVE ALWAYS CARRIED OUT ORDERS. BUT  
WHEN PEOPLE ADVISE ME TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME  
THAT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER. I STUDY IT. I SEE  
IF IT IS ADVISABLE AND I DO IT OR I DO NOT.

THUS, I DO NOT HAVE ADVISORS, ONLY COLLABORATORS  
THAT STUDY PROBLEMS AND PROPOSE ALTERNATIVES.

QUESTION: DOES ITS ENERGETIC POSTURE (PRESUMABLY, A  
REFERENCE TO THE QUICK ACTION IN PLACING THE  
THREE CHILEANS UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION) IN-  
DICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO GO TO  
THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES IN THE INVESTIGATION?

PINOCHET: WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO DO THAT.

QUESTION: IF THE EXTRADITION REQUEST IS FORTHCOMING WILL  
IT BE GRANTED?

PINOCHET: THIS IS A JUDICIAL PROBLEM; THEREFORE I CAN SAY  
NOTHING ON THE MATTER. BUT I MUST REMIND YOU  
THAT IN ORDER TO REQUEST THE EXTRADITION OF A  
PERSON IT IS NECESSARY TO PRESENT EVIDENCE.  
UNTIL NOW, WE ARE DEALING WITH PRESUMPTIONS.  
IT IS NECESSARY TO AWAIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
MATTERS.

QUESTION: DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE FINAL OBJECTIVE IS NOT  
JUDICIAL BUT POLITICAL?

PINOCHET: I DO NOT WANT TO JUDGE THAT. MY IMPRESSION IS  
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THAT THE NORTH AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS  
OPERATING ON ONE TRACK. ON THE OTHER THERE IS  
A GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT WANT TO MAKE POLITICAL  
CAPITAL OF THE SITUATION.

QUESTION: PUBLIC OPINION IS ASKING IF THIS SITUATION COULD  
LEAD TO THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT YOU HEAD.

PINOCHET: ABSOLUTELY NOT. I HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT IS LET AS IT SHOULD BE LED. THOSE  
WHO WANT TO PROVOKE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WILL  
HAVE A TOUGH TIME IF THEY CONTINUE THEIR EF-  
FORTS. THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE COORDINATED. THEY KNEW THAT  
THE INDICTMENT AGAINST GENERAL CONTRERAS WAS  
COMING AND SO THEY PRESENTED THEIR OWN SUIT AGAINST  
HIM. GENERAL CONTRERAS IS STILL UNDER MILITARY  
JUSTICE; THUS (BECAUSE THE LOCAL SUIT IS IN THE  
CIVILIAN COURT) THIS IS SIMPLY AN EFFORT TO  
LOWER HIS MORALE. IT IS A MEASURE OF PSYCHOLO-  
GICAL WARFARE.

QUESTION: ARE YOU NOT AFRAID THAT WITHIN THE ARMY THE FACT

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND COMMANDER  
IN CHIEF HAS PLACED UNDER ARREST HIS SUBORDINATES  
AND EVENTUALLY MAY PERMIT THEIR EXTRADITION,  
IF THE COURTS SO AUTHORIZE, MIGHT BE INTER-  
PRETED AS A LACK OF SUPPORT FOR YOUR MEN?

PINOCHET: MY SUBORDINATES KNOW THAT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
LOYAL TO MY PEOPLE AND THAT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
AN HONEST COMMANDER. I HAVE CONFRONTED SITUA-  
TIONS MORE SERIOUS THAN THIS. I HAVE 42 YEARS  
IN THE MILITARY. I KNOW NO OTHER PROFESSION.  
WHAT IT HAS TAUGHT ME IS LOYALTY AND RECOGNI-  
TION, AND WITH MY MEN I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GUIDED  
BY WHAT IS RIGHT. AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF I  
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HAVE BEEN VERY STRICT AND SEVERE, BUT I HAVE  
ACTED AS A MAN. ALL OF MY MEN HAVE FELT MY  
SUPPORT. BUT AS THIS MOMENT I AM ALSO PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC AND I AM ACTING IN ACCORD WITH  
THE TREATY OF 1902 SIGNED WITH THE UNITED STATES.  
THEY ASKED FOR PREVENTIVE DETENTION, IT WAS  
DONE. BUT NOW THEY MUST BRING THE EVIDENCE.

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
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DISLOYALTY ON THE PART OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
WOULD BE IF, HAVING PASSED THE 60 DAYS OF PRE-  
VENTIVE DETENTION WITHOUT A REQUEST FOR EXTRA-  
DITION, I BEGIN TO LOOK FOR OTHER EXCUSES TO  
KEEP THEM DETAINED.

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR OPIION OF PINOCHETISMO?

PINOCHET: I UNDERSTAND IT AS A DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT  
BY A YOUTH LEADER, NOT AS A CALL TO FORM A POLI-  
TICAL MOVEMENT. I CONSIDER IT A TYPE OF SUPPORT  
AGAINST THE ATTACKS THAT ARE MADE AGAINST ME  
DAILY. IT DOES NOT HAVE ANY OTHER OBJECTIVE.  
NOR, SHOULD IT BE UTILIZED TO PROVOKE A POLITI-  
CAL DEBATE. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE REJECT.

QUSTION: DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR CHILE IF  
THERE WERE PINOCHETISMO.

PINOCHET: I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF "PERSONALISMO" DESPITE THE  
FACT THAT THERE ARE MANY WHO SAY I AM. I AM  
STRUGGLING IN FAVOR OF CHILE. I HAVE SAID 500  
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TIMES THAT MY RULE IS TRANSITORY. I AM NOT  
FIGHTING FOR PINOCHET BUT FOR OUR COUNTRY. THE  
COUNTRY IS WHAT INTERESTS ME. I HAVE NOT  
REACHED THIS POSITION (THE PRESIDENCY) OUT OF  
PERSONAL AMBITION. I DEFENDED THE COUNTRY  
AGAINST MARXISM BECAUSE, SINCE 1947, I HAVE  
BEEN CONVINCED THAT IT WAS THE WORST SCOURGE  
THAT COULD AFFLICT US. I KNEW PROFOUNDLY THE  
COMMUNISTS IN PISAGUA WHEN I LIVED THERE TWO  
MONTHS. (COMMENT: PISAGUA IS WHERE COMMUNISTS  
WERE INTERNED IN THE LATE 1940S WHEN THE PARTY  
WAS DECLARED ILLEGAL.) THOSE WHO ACCUSE ME  
OF PERSONALISM DO IT IN ORDER TO SLANDER ME.  
I AM NOT A PERSONALIST. I REPEAT I HAVE NEVER  
THOUGHT OF MUSELF, NOR HAVE I THOUGHT OF MY  
BROTHERS WHO HAVE THE SAME JOBS THEY HAD SIX  
YEARS AGO. NOBODY HAS OBTAINED SPECIAL ADVANT-  
AGE AS SOME CLAIM, NONE, NONE. I HAVE NEVER  
INTEEVENED. THIS SHOWS THAT I DO NOT HAVE A  
PERSONALISTIC GOVERNMENT NOR A FAMILY GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DESCRIBES THE PRESENT  
SITUATION WITH THE LETELIER CASE AS "EXTREMELY  
GRAVE." WHAT IS YOUR VIEW?

PINOCHET: FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE EVERYTHING IS GRAVE.

BUT I TELL YOU THIS IS A JUDICIAL PROBLEM. I  
FIND IT EVEN MORE GRAVE THAT THEY GET MIXED UP  
IN MATTERS WHERE THEY SHOULD NOT BE.

QUESTION: WHAT INTERNAL REPERCUSSIONS CAN THERE BE.

PINOCHET: THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT TO FOMENT AND FOR THAT  
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WE HAVE TO BE CALM AND COOL AND SEE OBJECTIVELY  
WHAT IS HAPPENING.  
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## Message Attributes

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